

From: Satish_Channa@notes.amdahl.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I really don't understand the settlement that the 9 states made with Microsoft and DOJ. Looks like, it is just a slap on wrist. What ever monitory damages DOJ is assessing against Microsoft, Microsoft can get that money from the consumers by just raising the price of Windows \$2-5.

Here are my arguments and suggestions.

. We all know now that Microsoft is a monopoly. One of the main reasons is that there is no competing windows operating system. Just like AT&T was broken into pieces and every piece was able to deliver similar services, you are not going to solve the problems. I think, the company should be broken down into 4 main companies -

. Divide it into 2 competing Windows companies, one may sell NT type operating system and the other selling for homes. Let them compete and bring the price of windows down. If you look at the price of Windows product, it has kept on going up through out the decade. They don't even provide any books or training material with it. Again, they provide only 60 days guarantee and that is nothing.

. 3rd part of the company should be Application systems and other software, like office, mapping, etc. Now, if this was an independent company, they will provide software for other platforms to compete with other companies. Also, this company will not get any privileged information any time sooner than the other competing companies.

. 4th part of the comany should be hardware, gaming area.

. Force Microsoft to reduce the price of the operating system every year for the next decade.

.Force them to give 1-2 year warantee.

.Operating system should include only the functionality needed for the operating system. It should not include all type of other packages like Internet explorer, Video player, etc. Every time, Microsoft cannot compete against a company, they start bundling the software. They don't

lose any money. They just increase the price of Windows. Also, if you look at the history of TCP/IP products offered by 3rd party companies like NetManage/Chameleon, they were superior products. When Microsoft bundled it in Windows 95, not only they made the whole connection as a rigid environment but also they caused problems for the other companies. Other companies could not offer the same flexibility they were able to offer even in Windows for work groups.

. All government contracts should be bid with 2 vendors with compatible products, so that the government can compare them easily from the initial cost, maintenance (which has been a nightmare with Microsoft software), compatibility, upgrades, etc. If these kinds of guide lines are there,